

# South Dakota National Guard

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Soldiers compete for title of “Best Warrior” in the west**

CAMP GUERNSEY JOINT TRAINING CENTER, Wyo. — Fifteen Soldiers and non-commissioned officers from eight western states participated in the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition in Cheyenne and Camp Guernsey JTC, May 11-14.

The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Sgt. Ryan Dannen, from the 211th Engineer Company, and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Pryor, from 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Officer Candidate School) competed to earn the title of “Region 6 Best Warrior.”

Winners from Region 6 will compete at the All-ARNG Best Warrior competition. From there they will have a chance to compete at the All-Army competition later this year.

Dannen and Pryor did not finish in the top position of the enlisted and NCO categories. Dannen did finish as the runner up in the enlisted category.

The competitors were tested mentally and physically in a variety of skills and disciplines.

They were evaluated on everything from drill and ceremony and writing an essay to firing various weapon systems and completing an obstacle course. The competition culminated with a 12-mile road march over hilly terrain. The Soldiers carried a 38-pound combat-loaded rucksack and an M-16 rifle.

Dannen was excited to just get a chance to take part in this year’s competition.

“I competed at the state level and lost,” said Dannen, who was the SDARNG alternate for the Region 6 competition. “But the gentleman who won first wasn’t able to make it so I was on standby and got to swing in and participate.”

He had only three weeks to prepare for what some competitors spend years preparing for.

“It’s been amazing, all the stuff we’ve been able to do. It’s not what we get to do on an average guard drill; it’s pretty awesome,” he explained.

High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](https://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150513-Z-CG686-003:** Sgt. Ryan Dannen, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company participates in the ruck march challenge of the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center. The annual competition pits the best noncommissioned officers and Soldiers from eight western states. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire/released)



**150513-Z-CG686-004:** Sgt. Ryan Dannen, of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 211th Engineer Company battles the obstacle course during the third day of the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center. The annual competition pits the best noncommissioned officers and Soldiers from eight western states. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire/released)

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